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Comments and Responses Regarding Draft Local Coverage Determination: Radiologic Examination of the Chest

As an important part of Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) development, National Government Services solicits comments from the provider community and from members of the public who may be affected by or interested in our LCDs. The purpose of the advice and comment process is to gain the expertise and experience of those commenting.

We would like to thank those who suggested changes to the draft Radiologic Examination of the Chest LCD. The official notice period for the final LCD begins on May 15, 2008, and the final determination will become effective on July 1, 2008.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that additional ICD-9-CM codes be included that were in previous versions of the radiological examination of the chest LCD that are not included in the current LCD.

Response: The diagnoses requested by two commenters which included certain nonspecific diagnoses and codes for thrombophlebitis were removed from the present draft because we felt they did not support medical necessity for chest x-ray. We will reconsider those codes if the requesters provide a clinical description of under what circumstances the diagnosis codes for chest x-ray would be appropriate and clinical literature to support why a chest x-ray is indicated in the work-up of those conditions. Absent that information, the diagnosis codes cannot be added at this time.